

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Arbitration for a switch fabric (e.g., an input-buffered switch fabric) is performed. For a first port, a link subset from a set of links associated with the first  
5 port is determined. Each link from the link subset is associated with its own candidate packet and is associated with its own weight value. A link from the link subset for the first port is selected based on the weight value associated with each link from the link subset for the first port. For a second port, a link subset from a set of links associated with the second port is determined. Each link from the link subset associated with the  
10 second port is associated with its own candidate packet and is associated with its own weight value. The determining for the second port is performed in parallel with the determining for the first port. A link from the link subset for the second port is selected based on the weight value associated with each link from the link subset of associated with the second port. The selecting for the second port is performed in parallel with the  
15 selecting for the first port.

191357 v1/RE  
43NH01!.DOC